

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Forest Settlement Officers – Forest Blocks Notified under Sec.4 of A.P. Forest Act, 1967 – Constitution of District Committees to consider orders of Forest Settlement Officers for implementation or appeal – Orders – Issued.

REVENUE (ASSN.I) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.712

Dated:02- 06-2008.
Read the following:-

- 1.Minutes of the meeting conducted by CS to Govt. on 21.1.2008.
- 2.Minutes of the meeting conducted by Hon'ble CM on 22.1.2008.
- 3.G.O.Ms.No.54, G.A.(AR&T.I) Dept., dt.31.01.2008.

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ORDER:

In the G.O.3rd read above, the Government had transferred the subject, "Survey Settlement of Forest Boundaries" presently dealt by the Environment, Forest Science & Technology Department to the Revenue Department with immediate effect. The Government had also ordered that Forest Settlement Officers who are presently under the administrative control of the EFS&T Department be brought under the administrative control of the Revenue Department with immediate effect.

2. During the meetings conducted by the Chief Secretary to Government and Hon'ble Chief Minister on 21.01.2008 and 22.01.2008 respectively, the progress of the Forest Settlement Operations of the Forest Blocks notified under Sec.4 of A.P.Forest Act, 1967 was reviewed. It was noticed that many Forest Blocks were notified more than 40 years back but the claims of the poor and the tribals are yet to be settled. Moreover, it was also observed that after the Forest Settlement Officer passes the order adjudicating the claims, the Forest Department is filing appeal before the District Court against the orders in a manner which creates prolonged uncertainty and hardship to affected persons.

3. In view of the above, the Government after careful examination of the matter, decided to constitute and empower a District Committee to examine and take decision whether to file any appeal on the orders passed by the Forest Settlement Officers or to implement the orders.

4. Accordingly, the Government hereby constitutes the District Committee with the following compositions and functions:

1.Constitution of the District Committee:

A District Committee is hereby constituted immediately under the chairmanship of the District Collector for reviewing the orders passed by the Forest Settlement Officers and take appropriate decision.

2.Composition

1	District Collector	Chairperson
2	Joint Collector	Member Convener
3	Project Officer, ITDA(where the notified Forest Block comes under ITDA)	Member
4	Divisional Forest Officer concerned	Member

p.t.o.

5. Terms and the Conditions of the Committee:

A.Functions:

- a) After the Forest Settlement Officer conducts a thorough inquiry under Sec.8 and passes Award under Sec.11 adjudicating the claims, instead of the Forest Department filing appeal, the District Committee shall examine the orders passed by the Forest Settlement Officer and take a decision on whether or not to file appeal against the orders before the District Court.
- b) If the District Committee takes a decision not to file appeal but to implement the orders passed by the Forest Settlement Officer, the District Collector shall cause a Notification to be published immediately in the District Gazette notifying the areas intended to reserve and declaring the same to be reserved from the date to be fixed by such notification.
- c) The decision taken by the District Committee, whether to implement the orders of the Forest Settlement Officer or to file appeal, is final.
- d) The Divisional Forest Officer shall see to it that the Sec.15 Notification is prepared and published within two months of the issue of the above notification by the District Collector.

B. Meetings:

The District Committee shall meet as and when it is necessary.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

**M. SAMUEL,
PRL.SECY. TO GOVERNMENT.**

To

All the District Collectors.

All the Joint Collectors.

All the Divisional Forest Officers.

All the Project Officers, ITDA.

All the Forest Settlement Officers.

Copy to: The Spl.Chief Secretary & Chief Commissioner of

Land Administration, Hyderabad.

The Spl. Chief Secretary to Government, EFS&T Department.

The Prl.Secretary (RIAD)GADeptt.,

The Prl.Secretary (Revenue)

The Secretary (TW)

The Prl.Chief Conservator of Forests.

The Commissioner (TW)

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER.